

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-310
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you begin working on the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2021, we respectfully request that you include \$3.2 million for the new Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program (TWIEP) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Last year, the United States experienced a record number of tornadoes. The season began with a deadly tornado that killed 23 people in Alabama and ended in a North Texas storm that set a record as one of the costliest tornadoes in Texas history.

While some areas of the country may be more prone to tornadoes, tornadoes have been documented in every state of the United States. In between the events in Alabama and Texas, tornadoes ravaged states across the country, including Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, New York, Missouri, Kansas, and many other states, causing fatalities and millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, and local infrastructure. This year, tornado season began with a deadly storm in Nashville, Tennessee.

With the increase in occurrence and severity of tornadoes, we must invest in tools that keep Americans safe and help them prepare prior to a storm. The TWIEP will aid in this effort by improving the accuracy and timeliness of tornado forecasts, predictions, and warnings. An increased investment will allow the TWIEP to engage in research to advance NOAA's tornado observing systems, thunderstorm-scale computer models, and risk communication programs.

As severe weather events continue to worsen, we must continue to support research that will improve our ability to predict tornadoes and improve emergency preparedness. By appropriating \$3.2 million for the new TWIEP program, we will ensure NOAA has the resources to fulfill its mandate of "service to protect life and property."

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.



Sincerely,

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Mark E. Green
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

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